

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for assisting an author to complete a writing project of a given length, the method comprising:
 - a) instructing the author about researching the topic; and
 - b) instructing the author about writing about the topic.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein instructing the author about researching the topic further comprises:
 - a) providing a research template; and
 - b) providing research strategies.
3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a) providing access to an online community.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the online community comprises at least one of an online advisor, a chat room, or an email newsletter.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a) motivating the author.
6. The method of claim 5 wherein motivating the author further comprise providing at least one of:
 - a) a commitment contract;
 - b) a list of rewards the author receives upon partial completion of a portion of the writing project;
 - c) a list of energy boosters;
 - d) a list of incremental steps to take to complete the writing project.
 - e) a list of solutions to overcome common writing roadblocks; and
 - f) a mock diploma.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a) calculating a completion pace for the writing project using a completion date specified by the author and the given length.
8. The method of claim 7 further comprising:
 - a) calendaring the completion date.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a) calculating a budget for the writing project using expenses estimated by the author.
10. The method of claim 1 wherein the writing project is a thesis or dissertation and instructing the author about writing about the topic further comprises at least one of:
 - a) displaying instructions about choosing an academic advisor;
 - b) displaying instructions about choosing an academic committee;
 - c) displaying instructions about defending the writing project; and
 - d) displaying instructions about depositing the writing project.
11. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a) providing access to an online research resource.
12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a) providing a journal.
13. A method for assisting an author complete a writing project of a given length, the method comprising:
 - a) instructing the author about:
 - i. choosing a topic;
 - ii. choosing an academic advisor;
 - iii. choosing an academic committee;
 - iv. researching the topic;
 - v. writing a proposal;
 - vi. writing about the topic;
 - vii. defending the writing project;
 - viii. depositing the writing project;
 - b) calculating a completion pace using a completion date specified by the author and the given length.
14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
 - a) calculating a budget for the writing project using expenses estimated by the author.
15. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

- a) providing access to an online research resource.
- 16. The method of claim 13 further comprising:
 - a) providing access to an online community.
- 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the online community comprises one of an online advisor, a chat room or an email newsletter.
- 18. The method of claim 13 wherein instructing the author about researching the topic further comprises:
 - a) providing a research template; and
 - b) providing research strategies.
- 19. A method for assisting an author to complete a writing project, the method implemented on a computer having a processing unit, a memory means, a display means, and an input means, the method comprising:
 - a) displaying instructions about researching a topic; and
 - b) displaying instructions about writing about the topic.
- 20. The method of claim 19 wherein displaying instructions about researching the topic further comprises:
 - a) displaying a research template; and
 - b) displaying research strategies.
- 21. The method of claim 19 wherein displaying instructions about writing about the topic further comprises:
 - a) displaying instructions about choosing a topic for the writing project; and
 - b) displaying instructions about writing a proposal.
- 22. The method of claim 19 wherein the writing project has a given length, the method further comprising:
 - a) calculating a completion pace using a completion date and the given length input by the author.
- 23. The method of claim 22 wherein the completion pace is measured in number of chapters, the method further comprising:
 - a) displaying the number of chapters that should have been completed by the current date according to the completion pace.

24. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
 - a) calculating a budget for the writing project using estimated expenses input by the author.
25. The method of claim 19 wherein the writing project is a thesis or dissertation and displaying instructions about writing about the topic further comprises at least one of:
 - a) displaying instructions about choosing an academic advisor;
 - b) displaying instructions about choosing an academic committee;
 - c) displaying instructions about defending the writing project; and
 - d) displaying instructions about depositing the writing project.
26. The method of claim 19 further comprising:
 - a) providing access to an online community.
27. The method of claim 26 wherein the online community comprises at least one of:
 - a) an online advisor
 - b) a chat room or an
 - c) email newsletter.
28. The method of claim 19 further comprising providing motivation to the author with at least one of:
 - a) a commitment contract;
 - b) a list of rewards the author receives upon completion of a portion of the writing project;
 - c) a list of energy boosters;
 - d) a list of incremental steps to take to complete the writing project.
 - e) a list of solutions to overcome common writing roadblocks; and
 - f) a mock diploma.
29. The method of claim 19 further comprising providing a journal.
30. A method for assisting an author to complete a writing project comprising:
 - a) providing an instructing portion; and
 - b) providing an interactive portion.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the providing an instructing portion 100 further comprises:
 - a) providing instructions for researching a writing project; and
 - b) providing instructions for writing a writing project.
32. The method of claim 31 wherein the instructions for researching a writing project comprise:
 - a) providing a research template; and
 - b) providing research strategies.
33. The method of claim 31 wherein the instructions for writing a writing project comprise:
 - a) providing instructions about choosing a topic for the writing project;
 - b) providing instructions about writing a proposal;
 - c) providing instructions about writing about the topic; and
 - d) providing instructions about calculating a completion pace using a completion date specified by the author and a length of the writing project specified by the author.
34. The method of claim 30 further comprising:
 - a) providing instructions about calculating a budget for the writing project using expenses estimated by the author.
35. The method of claim 30 further comprising one or more of:
 - a) providing instruction about completing one or more non-writing tasks; and
 - b) providing instruction about common writing mistakes.
36. The method of claim 31 wherein the writing project is a thesis or dissertation and providing instructions about writing about the topic further comprises:
 - a) providing instructions about choosing an academic advisor;
 - b) providing instructions about choosing an academic committee;
 - c) providing instructions about defending the writing project; and
 - d) providing instructions about depositing the writing project.
37. The method of claim 31 wherein providing instructions about writing about the topic further comprises:
 - a) providing motivation to author with at least one of:

- i. a commitment contract;
 - ii. a list of rewards the author receives upon completion of a portion of the writing project;
 - iii. a list of energy boosters;
 - iv. a list of solutions to overcome common writing roadblocks; and
 - v. a mock diploma.
38. The method of claim 30 wherein the providing an interactive portion further comprises:
- a) providing access to an online community.
39. The method of claim 38 wherein the online community comprises at least one of an online advisor, a chat room or an email newsletter.
40. The method of claim 30 further comprising:
- a) providing access to an online research resource.
41. The method of claim 30 further comprising providing motivation to the author with at least one of:
- a) a commitment contract;
 - b) a list of rewards the author receives upon completion of a portion of the writing project;
 - c) a list of energy boosters;
 - d) a list of small steps to take
 - e) a list of solutions to overcome common writing roadblocks; and
 - f) a mock diploma.
42. The method of claim 30 further comprising providing a journal.
43. An article of manufacture comprising:
- a) a computer-readable medium; and
 - b) data stored in the computer readable medium comprising:
 - i. for writing a writing project of a given length;
 - ii. instructions for calculating a completion pace of the writing project from a completion date and the given length.
44. The article of manufacture of claim 43 wherein the data stored in the computer readable medium further comprises means for calendaring the completion date.

45. A computer program product comprising :
- a) instructions for researching a writing project;
 - b) instructions for writing the writing project;
 - c) providing an online community; and
 - d) providing motivation to the author.